Applicants : William R. Wheeler, et al.   Attorney's Docket No.: 10559-607001 / Intel Docket
Serial No. : 10/054,179   No.: P12891
Filed   : January 17, 2002
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REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-19, 21-25 and 27-29 are pending in the application, of which claims 1, 9, 11, 19, 21 and 29 are independent. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15, 17-19, 21-25, and 27-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Watkins, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,220,512, "Watkins"). As shown above, Applicants have amended the claims to define the invention with greater clarity. In view of these clarifications, withdrawal of the art rejection is respectfully requested.

More specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that Watkins neither discloses nor suggests a method that includes determining if there is an error in the logic design based on a propagated state, where determining is performed via executable instructions that operate absent user intervention. In particular, Watkins neither discloses nor suggests that the error is determined absent user intervention.

Watkins describes a system for simulating circuit designs. The Watkins system stores, in a database, software models that define the operation of corresponding circuit elements. Using a list of such components and associated connections as input, the Watkins system applies a logic compiler to output schematic object files. A logic simulator then utilizes the schematic object files and software models to produce simulation results.

Watkins then describes that "[b]y viewing the simulation results, the user may then determine if the represented circuit will perform correctly when it is constructed" (column 3, lines 55-57). Clearly, Watkins requires user intervention to determine errors in the logic design, and thus, neither discloses nor suggests determining errors via executable instructions that operate absent user intervention, as recited in claim 1.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Watkins. The remaining independent claims 9, 11, 19, 21 and 29, and each of their respective dependent claims, contain similar limitations as claim 1, and are patentable over Watkins for at least the same reasons.

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It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. The absence, however, of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intention to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. All telephone calls should be directed to the undersigned at 617-521-7896.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 6, 2006
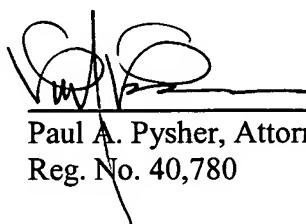
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